

Earth First!

Action

Update

30p

Special Summer Edition

No. 41 July & August 1997

"It's taking time for us to ruin the world.... but time is all it takes" - Monwanko plc

Dip Dip Delay for Cardigan Bay!

CARDIGAN BAY

CAMPAIGNERS FORCE OIL COMPANY U-TURN

The long running campaign to halt oil and gas exploration of Cardigan Bay, West Wales, notched up another victory this month as the oil giant Chevron, owners of Gulf Oil, announced a second 12 month delay in their drilling program. They were originally due to drill in October 96 but postponed this until October 97 after internal disagreements with their financial partners in the project. Local campaigners have been gearing up since then to fight Chevron's plans for oil rigs in Cardigan Bay. Rallies and public meetings were held, thousands of leaflets were distributed and a boycott campaign against Gulf Oil (which is in deep financial trouble anyway) was launched.

On the 7th of August an alliance of local activists and anti-oil campaigners from around the UK gathered in London at the offices of Chevron (2 Portman St. London W1 0171 487 8100) to mount the largest action of the campaign so far. Eight activists got into the building and barricaded themselves in offices on the top floor. Lots of data was recovered and loads more was "adjusted". Meanwhile more bodies scaled the front of the building to hang banners. Most employees were at lunch when the action happened and couldn't get back in after the 'in' security guards locked up the building. The office sitters were finally removed three hours later. Chevron then announced that they would not be drilling this year and will delay until October 98 at the earliest! They also said they would do an Environmental Impact Assessment(EIA)of the drilling before then, something that even the European Union couldn't get them to do! That night Cardigan Bay was the lead story on all channels of the Welsh TV news, with Earth First! as the winners of a David and Goliath struggle for the Bay.

Cardigan Bay is safe for another year- but

what then? The struggle to save the Bay will continue until its future is secured forever. The discovery of a new group of resident Risso Dolphins and another sighting of a huge Leatherbacked Turtle during a wildlife survey of the north of the Bay just days before the action proves that Cardigan Bay is a mostly unknown, unspoilt wilderness. We will keep it this way.

Info: Cardigan Bay Earth First!, Temperance House, Taliesin, Machynlleth, Powys, or Corporate Watch, Box E,111 Magdalen Rd., Oxford, OX41RQ T: 01865 791391

100 DAYS OF ACTIONS AGAINST FOSSIL FUELS

A coalition of anti-oil campaigners are calling on activists to strike at oil targets over the next 3 months in a concerted 100 days of action. The message is simple: we need an end to the dependency on fossil fuels.

Activists involved with RTS, Delta, Corporate Watch, Platform, 90% Crude, Greenpeace, Oilwatch and Cardigan Bay EF! and others will hold the oil industry accountable for their crimes. The hundred days will begin on August 23rd and end with the Kyoto Climate Summit, where world leaders may begin limiting CO₂ emissions but will fail to tackle the real cause of climate change - our mad quest for oil.

Up until now, anti-oil action in the UK has been either in disconnected bursts or focused on the effects of oil: Shell in Nigeria, the Brent Spar, exploration in Cardigan Bay, BP in Columbia, BP in the Atlantic Frontier, Mobil in Peru, Milford Haven, The Braer and Sea Empress Disasters, pollution, workers rights, oil spills, petrochemical toxics. Now with the threat of rapid climate change we must end it before it ends us. The oil industry is large but cumbersome and has never before dealt with an all out assault on its right to exist!

It is intended that on every day of the next 100 some action or event will be happening somewhere. The hundred days include events such as Shell's 100th Birthday, exploratory drilling in Cardigan Bay, first oil coming ashore from the Atlantic Frontier, 2nd anniversary of Ken Saro Wiwa's death, 8th onshore oil licensing round, huge opencast actions and preparatory climate negotiations. Forecourts, delivery lorries, seismic ships, sea going tankers, refineries, oil labs, geology departments, oil fired power stations, opencast, corporate offices, delivery depots, oil conferences, relevant billboards and sponsorship deals are all linked to the oil industry.

To take part, get informed, offer suggestions and make a difference contact 0171 865 8234 or Corporate Watch.

EARTH FIRST! IN VICTORY SHOCKER

Campaigners in North Wales recently set up the Gelli Tree Village to protect deciduous trees around a badger sett in a cash crop forest. The Forestry Commission had planned to clear fell the forest but after a month of the Village's existence they finally noticed the protestors' presence. Campaigners put together a list of demands concerning the area's future management: this was accepted by a nervous Forest Enterprise. Over two hundred coniferous trees and a greater number of deciduous trees all marked for felling were saved. In case this excellent news is not enough, the media attention generated by the campaign helped pressure Forest Enterprise into agreeing to replant the forest with deciduous not coniferous trees and to run the forest under a community management scheme. One commentator has claimed that if this takes place it will be "the first community run temperate rain forest in the Northern hemisphere". Hurray for the riff-raff.

LYMINGE FOREST NEEDS YOU NOW

Eviction at Lyminge is imminent and support is needed now. The situation is very winnable. Help to save a valuable public area, rich in wildlife and stop Rank from treating our natural heritage like trivial landscaping for the unconcerned weekend holidaymaker. If you can't make it, send a donation of money or materials to C. Wood, c/o Alan Kyte, Clover Land, New Barn, Lyminge, Folkestone, CT18 8DS. Maps Grid Reference TR 141441 Ordnance Survey PathFinder 1231 / LandRanger 189

From Canterbury (Kent) B2068 going south 9 miles to a BP garage at a crossroads, turn left and continue until you see a Forestry Commission nature trail sign. Continue down the drive until you meet someone from the visitors information tent.

From Junction 11 of the M20 Go four miles north on the B2068 until you get to a BP garage at a crossroads, turn right and continue until you see a Forestry Commission nature trail sign. Continue down the drive until you meet someone from the visitors information tent.

Train from Folkestone. Arrive at Folkestone walk down the station approach past the taxi rank and look for a bus stop with the Lyminge time table. Ask the driver for the nearest stop to the BP garage near West Wood.

For further information contact Greensword: Tel: 01303 265737 Fax: 01233 720127 Direct Camp Communication 0410 536 592 (Blue)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

There is now a Peace camp at the Alvis arms factory in Coventry which, amongst other things, builds tanks for Indonesia. Evidence exists of these tanks being used in internal repression and human rights abuses. The Peace camp is holding regular events of prayer and meditation every Sunday and music nights every Thursday. The new residents also hope to make a Garden of Hope, banners and doves of peace. Contact Tom on (01926) 831 439

The American Earth First! 'anti-roadshow' in Europe has been cancelled. However they may do it next year. Get in touch with Jim Flynn at the EF! Journal (see Contacts List) to offer help.

Casey Neill, the American environmental songster will still be visiting the UK in August and September, so if you would like to book a show with him contact 4505 University Way NE, Box 136, Seattle, WA 98105, USA; phone (206) 517-5071.

The Earth Circus Network is a new network composed of groups and individuals, who raise awareness about environmental and social issues through workshops, performances, accessible information, exhibitions and creative action. Contact 0378 636254 or c/o P.O.Box 2679 Brighton BN2 2DN.

A reminder that the Naburn Woods campaign to stop a shopping development in York still exists. The final planning application is currently going through. Regular actions are planned which will be much more successful if you go along. Contact York EF!

On the 16th July, GroenFront started their first ever action camp in Ruigoord, Netherlands, in an 'alternative' squat village in a nature rich area. The local government is trying to build a harbour, poisonous waste dump and industrial park there. Contact GroenFront Ruigoord 11 1165 MP Halfweg. ruigoord@hotmail.com

A Video Activist Handbook is now available illustrating how to use a video camera in campaigns, how to put footage on mainstream media, how to set up alternative video productions and how to use your films in court. £11.99 Contact Undercurrents, 16b, Cherwell Street, Oxford OX4 1BG (01865) 203663

Earth First! Safety Second? is the name of a soon to be published tome on climbing safety being put together by a group of protesters with experience of tree defence and a strong desire not to see anybody die through taking avoidable risks. Send tree climbing stories, experiences of accidents and rescues, advice and queries on equipment, knots and methods, myths and mysteries to EF! Safety Second? c/o Manchester EF!

Police are seeking a "serial arsonist" after a series of attacks on a McDonalds restaurant in Wyboston in Bedfordshire. The most recent fire totally destroyed McDonalds.

REACT is a new campaign focussing on public transport. Part of their agenda is promoting train jumping. For more info contact 6 Edinburgh Cr, Leamington Spa, CV3 13LL. Tel: 01926 424 480

A MILLION TOILETS OCCUPIED

A camp was set up on a proposed ball clay quarry extension at Teigngrace near Newton Abbot. The quarry, owned by the Watts Blake Beare (WBB) group wants to provide raw materials for toilets, washbasins and tiles. Although the project is on hold because of a potential public enquiry, the camp was served with a possession order and will be in court on the 29th of August. If the project goes ahead, about 1 km of each of the rivers Bovey and Teign will be diverted, affecting an area containing numerous protected species including otters, kingfishers, bats and rare fish species.

Contact Aqua c/o Coral Cottage, Ventiford, Teigngrace, Nr Newton Abbot TQ12 6QL. Camp mobile 0467 622 825.

ASHTON COURT QUARRY

Ashton Court is a public park on the western edge of Bristol which was bought for the people by the City Council in 1959. 20 acres of this public parkland have now been leased to Australian multinational Pioneer Aggregates so that they can expand their Durnford Quarry. Planning permission has been granted despite significant opposition from local residents. Work is expected to start in September or October: an action is planned for 26th August - meet 8am at the quarry entrance (Longwood Lane, Long Ashton). Contact (0117) 942 0129

FASLANE PEACE CAMP EVICTION UPDATE

Nearly 2 weeks after the 28th July deadline and there are still no eviction papers for the Faslane Peace Camp. The press and 80% of Scots who don't want Trident in their back yard support the camp. Dick "Dastardly" Walsh, head of Argyll and Bute Council, said on TV that should Faslane turn into a Manchester Airport style scenario the council would give up. It is all a question of cash, something that they haven't got much of. Go to Faslane - there is still everything to play for - and don't forget to bring lots of building materials, especially scaffolding tube. Contact 01436 820901

DAYS OF ACTION AGAINST BIOTECHNOLOGY

October 2nd marks the start of 2 weeks of Global Days of Action against Biotechnology. Genetically engineered foods, life patents and factory farming will be targeted by consumer, farm, animal, environmental and public interest organisations from over 40 nations with simultaneous actions, press conferences and public information events in countries throughout the world. This follows on from the first successful GDA in April where broad public support was mobilised against unlabelled, untested genetically engineered foods, life patenting and monopolisation of our global biological resources.

If you want to organise a joint action/press conference in your country or local area during the 2nd Global Days of Action against Biotech, please contact the USA Pure Food Campaign office at: Tel: (218) 226 4164, (218) 226 4155,

or (202) 775 1132 Fax: (218) 226 4157 alliance@mr.net http://www.geocities.com/athens/1527

For more info on Genetics issues in the UK get the GENETIX UPDATE which comes out monthly and is FREE, send your details and donations to Genetix Update, c/o PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY or by email gen@earthling.net

BABRAHAM FARM INSPECTION

On Saturday 14th June animal liberation activists conducted a peaceful and legal inspection of Babraham Farm in Cambridgeshire for breaches of animal welfare laws. Babraham Farm was the first place to conduct bizarre animal experiments in the name of genetic engineering; for example, crossing a sheep with a goat. It was made clear to the police that all activists carried a statement declaring they had no intention of causing damage or theft and were just there to look around.

Within 20 minutes a helicopter and 7 police riot vans appeared. 22 arrests were made, most for the ridiculous charge of 'prevention of breach of the peace'. An hour later this had been changed to 'suspicion of burglary'. All vehicles used on the action were impounded.

After 13 hours activists were released to discover that their houses had been raided in order to search for stolen documents, some having their doors smashed with sledgehammers. No evidence was found.

All 22 were bailed under an 1824 Vagrancy Act. Even the desk sergeant could not keep a straight face when reading out the charges.

This is just one incident in a chain of mass arrests at recent peaceful animal liberation demonstrations - those involved have described this as police intimidation which has no chance of succeeding because activists know that a few hours in a cell is nothing compared to what is happening to tortured animals.

BASQUE COUNTRY RESISTANCE

The 8 activists who sabotaged the construction of the Itoiz dam in Navarra, Spain last year have been taken to court again. They were originally released due to massive demonstrations and international solidarity. However the new conservative government has decided to restart construction of the dam and to punish the activists. The regional government and constructors were asking for 3 years imprisonment but the Spanish government for 19 years. Dani Untziti is still in prison although he didn't take part in the action, but was involved in the campaign against the dam and is insumiso (refuses military service).

ENCUENTRO NEWS

From the 25th July to the 3rd August, over 3000 people from all five continents gathered in Spain to discuss how current economic policies are affecting our everyday lives around the world, and how we can create a global network of local organisations that can resist them (no small feat..!). Amidst rainbow representation of people's movements, unfunded groups, unions, individuals, co-operatives and NGOs, the Encuentro opened with a public meeting in the Plaza de Toros on the outskirts of Madrid, where two members of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN), Dalia and Felipe, spoke of the current militarisation of all parts of Mexico - not only Chiapas - and the struggles of Zapatista

How to Contact the Earth First! Action Update

Post: Earth First! Action Update, Dept 29, 1 Newton Street, Manchester M1 1HW. Telephone: 0161 224 4846. E-mail: actionupdate@gn.apc.org. Enclose a SAE for replies. Send us your details if you want to subscribe to the free e-mail server. Earth First! Website address: http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/EF/earthfirst.html

current militarisation of all parts of Mexico - not only Chiapas - and the struggles of Zapatista communities today. Where neoliberalism had meant an end to hope for millions of people all around the world, the message and demands of the Zapatista movement offer renewed hope and energy, and this was more than evident from the way in which Dalia and Felipe were warmly welcomed wherever they travelled.

The week was organised by themes: the neoliberal economy, struggles for culture and education, for land and ecology, and the struggle against patriarchy, and all forms of marginalisation.

In the land and ecology workshops participants heard of struggles in the Philippines against the proposed development of a golf and "Country Club" on 8,650 hectares of land which is currently composed of four villages, rich agricultural land and a beautiful landscape of mountains and sea; of thousands of Indian farmers protesting directly against multinational companies such as Cargill and Kentucky Fried Chicken for their part in the monopolisation of the seed market and of local food-growing areas for meat production; and of the Sem Terra movement in Brazil which has been organising among landless families in 23 states in Brazil, occupying land and campaigning for agrarian reform.

The Encuentro culminated in a meeting of over 2,000 people in the scorching heat, where each group gave feedback on their discussions, and the possibility of creating "an international network of resistance" came closer to realisation. Despite the diversity of all those represented, the struggle is for a common goal and against the same system driven by the laws of profit, and together we are more powerful. As stated in the summons to the Encuentro, "perhaps the most urgent thing to do is to try and break out of this isolation and open spaces to hold in common our struggles, our frustrations and our desires for change".

The energy and encouragement that the Encuentro gave to people as they return to their disparate communities was immense. Not only have concrete plans for international actions emerged (for example against the World Trade Organisation 50th anniversary to be held in Geneva next February, and an international week of action against Maastricht in the first week of December, to name only two), but perhaps most importantly the Encuentro showed that human beings all over the world are seizing the spaces left by the destruction caused by the free market today, and filling them with proposals for self-organisation and viable alternatives.

Contact: <http://www.pangea.org/encuentro>

NB The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is holding its second Ministerial Conference on May 18-20 1998 in Geneva - this offers a high-point for networking and coordinated action for humanity and against neoliberalism.

GENETICALLY MANIPULATED PRISONER SUPPORT

On 17th June a prisoner at HMP Bullingdon went on hunger strike until he could be guaranteed a diet free of Genetically Manipulated (GM) food. Unfortunately the governor ignored him as he had two weeks to serve and probably wouldn't die of hunger before being released. More actions like these are needed, especially from long term prisoners.

Contact the GM Prison Support Group on: (0161) 224 4846 or Ricardo on: (0171) 923 9511 for the full scientific lowdown.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER: The editors of the Earth First! Action Update do not intend to encourage people to carry out any illegal action. The Action Update is for information purposes only.

GENE CROP DESTROYED

An experimental crop of oilseed rape, owned by the US based biotech corporation Monsanto, has been destroyed by local residents at a farm near Coventry.

The action took place on the evening of Wednesday 6th August at Tibs Hall Farm, Kingsbury near Tamworth, Staffs. The genetically altered crop, containing mutant DNA, was uprooted from its experimental plot by people wearing protective clothing. The plants were then broken before being mixed together with 'normal' plants to invalidate the experiment's results.

The mutant DNA in this crop could have easily spread to the surrounding area either through cross pollination or through virus infection. No-one can guarantee that this cannot happen. Several studies have shown that the pollen of transgenic oilseed rape can cross-pollinate with traditional or wild species, spreading the genetic pollution.

To find out where your local GMO test site is, get a full copy of the GMO public register from the Dept of the Environment Biotech Unit on 0171 276 8331. The more people that have copies of this the better. You can also check it out on the web at: <<http://www.shef.ac.uk/~doe>> For more info, why not take out a free subscription to 'Genetix Update', Box 9659, London N4 4JY 0181 374 9516

IRELAND'S GLEN OF THE DOWNS FOR THE CHOP?

This nature reserve is habitat for several internationally important endangered species of insects and moths and is about to be destroyed by the chainsaws of the road industry. The tenders are out and it is possible that Wicklow County Council could start chopping down the forest at any time as surveyors have already been seen on site marking trees. Help would be greatly appreciated.

Contact: +353 {0}61 313308, email: dublinkarma@geocities.com

NOTES ON THE AMSTERDAM MARCH FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

50,000 people marched in Amsterdam against the recent Euro summit and were met with various charges by riot police with batons and tear gas. Bank windows were broken and EU flags pulled down. 200 Italian activists were arrested for allegedly graffitiing a carriage in the train that 4,000 of them had squatted to get to Amsterdam.

Other activities around the Summit included a demo waking up delegates in their hotels - activists got away either by swimming across a canal or pretending to be Italian tourists! Some foreigners were deported when arrested. Spanish olive growers protested against the Summit by giving out olive oil and bread. The final press conference was disrupted as a banner stating 'EUxclusion' was unfurled at the front of the room whilst other activists ranted on the exclusion of environment, non-Europeans, and social issues from the agenda. The action was broadcast live on TV screens around the press centre.

EVENTS

AUGUST

- 23 Start of the 100 days of action against Fossil Fuels and the Oil Industry. Contact 0171 865 8234 or Corporate Watch.
- 23 Party/openday on the site of the proposed Wakefield Toxic Dump. Contact: 01924 893564
- 26 Day of action against the expansion of Ashton Court Quarry. Meet 8am at Longwood Lane quarry entrance, Long Ashton. Tel: 0117 942 0129
- 26 Gandalf Trial and bike blockade, Portsmouth Crown Court, 9am Winston Churchill Ave, Gandalf Defendant Campaign PO, Box 66, Stevenage SG1 2TR. 0956 694922 for accomodation the night before.
- 30 National day of action against vivisection. Meet noon at BIBRA, Woodmansterne rd, Carshalton, Surrey. 0171 278 3068
- 30-2 Alternative Arms Fair and peace demo near Farnborough Airshow/ arms exhibition. Contact: 0171 281 0297
- 31 Rally against Mink farming outside Windmill Hill Fur Farm, Child Okeford near Blandford, Dorset, at 12am. Speaker from Respect For Animals.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 9am, mass blockade to shut down the Royal Navy and British Army Equipment Exhibition on the first trade day of the arms fair. Accommodation and further details: Campaign Against the Arms Trade on 0171 281 0297 or 01206 305811.
- 6-7 BICYCLES & BI-PEDS at the BYP-ARSE. 12 noon Newbury railway station, a celebration of the anniversary of eCosta's main contract. Bring food, tent and repair kit. Followed on the 7th by all day live music. Mobile 0468 505344 from 30th Aug, or call 01635 550552, PO Box 5520, Newbury, RG14 7YW. WEB:<http://www.gn.apc.org/newbury>.
- 13 Mass trespass at Babraham Institute of Animal physiology, 1pm, Babraham, off A1307, south of Cambridge, near J10 M11.
- 12-14 Aldermaston Peace Camp gathering, Contact: 0117 939 3746.
- 20 Eco-Weekenders Alliance discussion, combining jobs and radical activism. 10am-6pm Cornerstone Housing co-op, Leeds. Call Sarah to book a place on 0113 262 9365
- 27-11 "Surviving in a Globalised World." Second Autumn University on North-South issues. Aachen, Germany. Contact: PlayFair Europe! C/o AstA der RWTH Aachen, Turnstr. 3, 52072 Aachen. Tel. 49 241 803792. Fax. 49 241 876103. asta@rwth-aachen.de.
- 28 Cannabis-Turn-Yourself-in-Day, go and get nicked with a spliff. Meet Speakerns Corner, Hyde Park, 2:23pm. Contact the Legalise Cannabis Campaign, BM Box 2455 London WC1N 3XX. 0171 584 1031
- 30 A33 Rave against roads, party and actions in German 'road squat', Heideweg X, 33829 Borgholzhausen (20km's from Bielefeld along the B68, towards Osnabrück) Tel: 00 (+49) 5425 270 <http://www.geocities.com/RainForest/Vines/4448>
- 30-2 Demos against COPEX arms fair. Tel: 0171 281 0297

OCTOBER

- Oct Month of action to END CORPORATE DOMINANCE See story for details
- Early (to be set) International Day of Direct Action against Peabody Coal Company. to stop strip mining of Northern Arizona. To 'facilitate resource development', the traditional matriarchal Navajo and the Hopi tribes are being relocated, sometimes by force. Offers of help to Jason Marshall, 67A Shore Road, Inverness, Argyll, PA23 7TR, Scotland, or e-mail Jason or Turtle tortuga@sw-center.org.

- 1 11am, mass non-violent sit down and blockade of the Copex Arms Fair, Farnborough. Contact CAAT on 0171 281 0297 or 01206 305811
- 2-16 Global Days of Action against genetically engineered foods, life patents, and factory farming. For ideas or info contact GEN: 0181 374 9516, WEN: 0171 247 3327 or Pure Food Alliance: alliance@mr.net, <http://www.geocities.com/athens/1527>

- 4-5 Northern EF! networking do. Call 0161 224 4846
- 11-18 Week of Global Action Against McDonald's (incorporating 12th - Solidarity With McDonald's Workers, and 16th - World Anti-McDonald's Day). For info contact 0171 713 1269.

- 31 Halloween action(s) to close down open cast sites around the country. Contact: No Opencast, 0171 603 1831

NOVEMBER

- 17-23 Transport action seminar in Budapest -Contact ASEEID on +31 20 668 2236
- 29 International No Shop Day organised by Enough!, contact 0161 226 6668 or 0181 981 0480

BRIEF NEWS CONT..

The full text and images of the anticopyright book by Road Alert! 'Road Raging - Top Tips for Wrecking Roadbuilding' are now available free on the web - <http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/ef/rr/index.html>

Pobal an Dulra is an Irish Action Update being put together by An Talamh Glas. They've asked for notices, letters, press releases and other electronically transmittable material to be sent to atglas@tinet, or dublinkarma@geocities.com to be passed on to Irish people. Alternatively, post to Limerick Talamh Glas, 41 Glasgow Park, Limerick. 00 353 61 313308

On 10th August around 100 people decided to have a picnic on the field which serial SSSI trasher Farmer Palmer wants to plough up next. The peaceful picnic took place to raise the profile of the campaign and to keep the pressure up on Michael Meacher, Minister for the Environment. Further picnics are planned soon. Contact Justice? For further info.

Don't miss Do or Die no 6, now available from Do or Die c/o SDEF!, Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton BN2 2GY. savage@easynet.co.uk. Priced £1.50 plus 70p postage and packing. No 7 should be out before the end of the year - deadline for submissions is November 5th.

Spirit of Freedom, produced by the Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Network, lists all known direct action prisoners, those on remand, and dates of forthcoming trials. If you know of other prisoners not on the list please get in touch. It is available from Earth Liberation Prisoners, c/o BM HEAL, London WC1XXX.

The residents of Taliesin, a small village in mid Wales, population approximately 200, were fed up with the tourist traffic passing through. The local vicar, inspired by Reclaim The Streets actions, organised a party in the streets, stopping traffic all day. Who says RTS only happened in the city?

A database is being set up of facial images from passport photos which will result in a searchable archive of 35-40 million people. This is allegedly to combat passport fraud but coincidentally several companies are well on their way to developing technology that could match digitised passport images with photos from existing police databases and CCTV cameras.

Norwich EF! took action against Del Monte Costa Rica in August for their oppressive trade union policies. One and a half tons of rotting banana skins were dumped in the loading bay of their depot in Kent, holding up work all day. Contact 0171 737 6215

A free pamphlet called, 'Claiming compensation for police conduct' has been produced by the experts in the field, Irwin Mitchell Solicitors. Send a large SAE to St. Peter's House, Hartshead, Sheffield, S1 2EL for a copy.

Wanted - Tidy Vegetarians or Vegans committed to social change through cooperative living. Cornerstone Housing Co-op in Leeds is looking for new members. Call 0113 262 9365, or write to 16 Shelbroke Avenue, Leeds LS7 3HB
(sorry, they gave us cash, the add goes in)

350 people marched to the police station to demand the release of those who had been arrested but were stopped by the police: everyone sat down in protest and was arrested.

Over a hundred went on a hunger strike. 10,000 Kurdish people demonstrated against Turkey joining the EC. ASEED actions took place against genetics; another ASEED action stopped a high speed train and dressed it up as a devil. Other actions targeted Western nuclear expansion into Central & East Europe.

For more info: Brighton Autonomists. c/o Prior House, 6 Tilbury Place, Brighton.

Next Year the EU summit will be happening in UK and G7 in Birmingham in May 98 so start planning.

URGENT ACTION NEEDED FOR OGONI PRISONERS

20 Ogoni men are still in prison in Nigeria awaiting "trial" - framed for murder on the same charges that Ken Saro-Wiwa faced last year. The Nigerian government refuses to grant them bail, much less bring them to trial. The men are kept in severely overcrowded cells with torture, denial of medical care, starvation, and poor sanitary conditions all listed as complaints. This has been described as a deliberate strategy, "Abacha knows that executing them or even trying them will draw unwanted attention. Instead, he seems prepared to let them die in jail untried" *The New York Times, August 6, 1997*

Testimony by the 20 implicates Shell in their arrest and subsequent torture. "Shell Police replied that nothing can make us free from their hand, and that even if they forgave others, they cannot forgive the indigenes of Bomu and Dere communities because they are the causes of the hindrances to their operations in Ogoniland" - written by two of the Ogoni 20, September 21, 1996. Shell's security force, known locally as the "Shell Police" are accused of numerous incidents of repression of peaceful protest and harassment of activists. Contact DELTA on 0116 255 3223 lynx@gv.apc.org

QUARRY ROAD PROTEST

At the beginning of July Avon and Somerset police were surprised to stumble on an anti-road and quarry camp complete with treehouses, tunnels and walkways. The camp, on the route of the proposed Bulls Green Link Road, is half way between the infamous Whatley Quarry and the 6000 year old Asham Wood. A mixture of local people and veteran activists have now set up a further 2 camps and more are planned.

People are welcome to join the protest - the main camp is at Dead Woman's Bottom in Chantry. Ground rules - no drink, no dogs. Contact: 01749 880144.

SHOREHAM SHENANIGANS

Two campaigners have set up a camp in the village of Shoreham to prevent the destruction of an old orchard and meadow.

The meadow is an SSSI and though the orchard has outlived its working life it has formed a fertile habitat for many rare species of plant, animal and bird. The area is under threat from a local farmer and contractors who have been kept

at bay by the nesting season but are likely to move in in October. General help and camp building experience needed. Contact Robbie on 0976 931188

SMOGBUSTERS AGAINST A1(M)ADNESS

On 5th August members of AGAST (a coalition of groups opposed to the A1 expansion) occupied part of the A1(M) site near Alconbury in Cambridgeshire. Armed with banners, pollution masks and a traffic-fume vacuum cleaner, the protest sought to pour light on the damage caused by vehicle emissions to health and the environment.

The £200 million section of the A1(M) is being built by the Road Management Group (RMG), a consortium of construction companies. The new road is to be a DBFO initiative; a scheme whereby contractors borrow the money to build the road, then recoup their costs from the government by charging an agreed fee for each vehicle using the road over a 30-year period.

Further actions are planned, contact Terry on 01438 367452

SPITALFIELDS MARKET

A new campaign to resist our old friends Costain has been kicked off. They wish to build the world's largest trading floor for professional gamblers, the London International Financial Futures Exchange (LIFFE) on the site of Spitalfields Market. The plan is to destroy a former fruit and veg market that has become home to hundreds of artists; sports facilities including a swimming pool; businesses providing over 100 local jobs; a craft market; and even an Opera House.

Ironically though next to the City of London Spitalfields is the poorest and most overcrowded ward in Britain, the majority of the local population being immigrants from Bangladesh. The new development is set to destroy this entire community as property speculation pushes up land prices and forces out tenants. A huge local consensus against the development has been ignored by cash-stricken Tower Hamlets Council. Protesters picketed a "regeneration" conference organised by the Civic Trust on the 18th July in Spitalfields Market. For more details or to join a phone tree of supporters for future protests phone 0958 778592 email: spitalfields@ndirect.co.uk

THE MOBILE OFFICE PROJECT

The mobile office project is an idea from the A30 action group who plan to convert a van into an office that is mobile and powered from sustainable energy. These facilities will then be available for non violent direct action campaigns.

The project aims to eradicate the need to travel, often miles, to make a phonecall, send a press release or fax, produce leaflets and up to date internet pages. The mobile office will be used mainly on low profile campaigns that usually do not have the budget to do the essential office and safety work that is crucial to run an effective campaign.

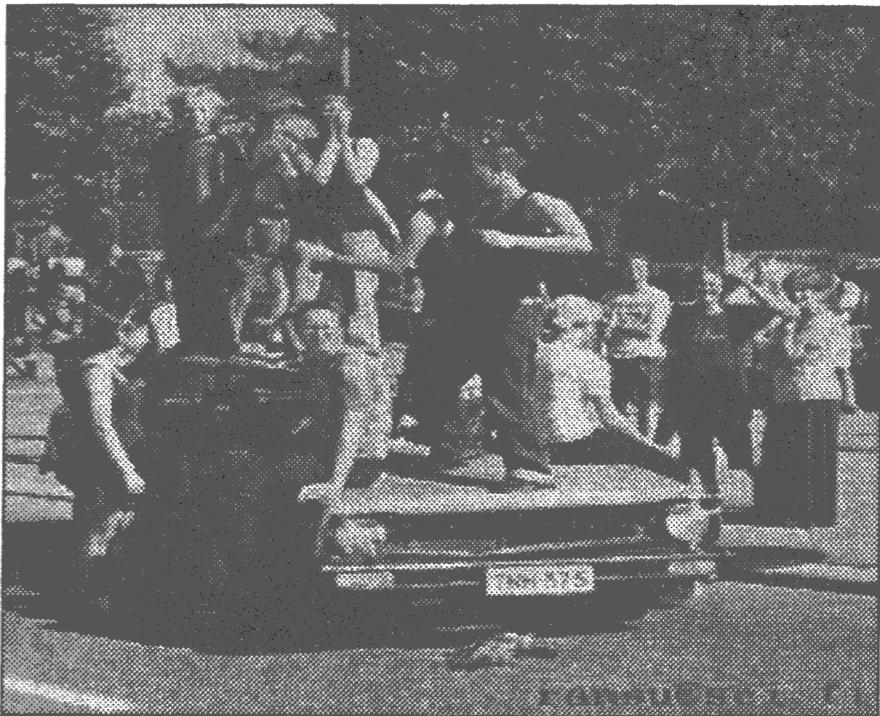
Please send donations or letters to: The Mobile Office Project, c/o Glaneirw, Blaenporth, Ceredigion, Wales, SA43 2HP. Rachel@darkstar.zynet.co.uk

SEND US YOUR NEWS!!

We can't tell you if you don't tell us. Send your news, stories, prisoners addresses, quotes, leaflets and up coming dates on the back of an envelope, A4 sheet, computer disk or email to EF!AU. Don't forget pictures, (as photos or graphics files,) or drawings.

RTS SUCCESS !

FINLAND: On the 9th of August, this time in Tampere, the largest town after Helsinki, 1200 people blocked a major street near the railway station and the party kicked on from 12 to 6 pm after which we had a break before the all-night RTS-continuation party at the beach just a mile from the town centre. The Police had said earlier that week that "because the Helsinki-RTS (17.5.1997) had been 'so peaceful' there would be no police intervention required" [they didn't know why to arrest us]. This time the media was there and we got our message through though the local paper wrote next morning that "the RTS-party had not troubled the traffic" ["Your resistance is futile - submit!"]. Are they trying to challenge us - should we perhaps block the



Dancing on a dying car at
Tampere RTS

whole town centre next time?

You Can Contact RTS-Finland at:
jp56048@uta.fi [or] oras@freenet.hut.fi

BRISTOL: Over 1000 people turned up in Bristol on the 21st June to block the start of the M32, jamming up the entire Bristol city centre. After the party, that went very well indeed, police moved in to make 22 arrests and call it a riot, however only 4 of these cases are now being followed. Pictures and witnesses of arrests are needed, especially at the illegal raid of the squat the night before. Unfortunately Desert Storm, (veteran sound system), had their rig impounded after the event, it is still unclear if they will get it back. Contact Bristol EF!

EDINBURGH: There was a slight clash of the drama culture and ecoculture as a theatre group were involved using the street party as publicity for their play: we want press, yes we'll move Mr. Policeman vs this is a protest - we'll resist the police. However there was a broad range of activists from around Europe, many of whom got nicked and were not being released until a few days later. A large police presence failed to deter the main group from its destination, an empowering feeling. The scottish police had a totally harsh, non negotiable approach, however activists asked for a consensus decision on moving away, and so a large talking circle was formed where all decisions had to be translated into 12 languages, annoying the police intensely.

SWAMP STORIES

Following the A30 protest Exeter's local paper *The Express and Echo* recently reported that the Under Sheriff of Devon, Trevor Coleman, is "hiring out a team of 'Swampy Busters' for developers who fear they will be targeted by eco-warriors".

The new Major Protest Unit, set up by Mr Coleman and his colleagues at Michelmores Solicitors in Exeter, will be "targeted at developers tendering for privately funded building schemes - particularly roads passing through environmentally sensitive areas". They are warning potential clients "not to under-estimate the campaigners and their techniques for halting construction"

For advice on how to deal with the Swampy

phenomenon contact Mr Coleman at The Major Protest Unit, Michelmores, Cathedral Yard, Exeter, Devon, EX1 1HE.

Anyone wishing to make enquiries about the Swampy™ merchandise being offered by the bloodsucking capitalist who is attempting to trademark the name Swampy should contact David Bramley, Spout Hill, Hull, HU15 1QW. Tel 01482 666272.

RAINBOW KEEPER ATTACKED

The Rainbow Keepers, who have been blocking the only road into the Rostov Nuclear Plant in Russia since 16th July 1997, were violently attacked by 500 workers, and the camp was burnt down on 29th July. Many of the blockaders were injured as they were dragged out from lock-on barrels, others were viciously assaulted. The next day, the local militia arrested 22 Rainbow Keepers for their part in the blockade.

The blockade carried on with the help of Kosacks (former Russian border army) until the local government agreed to open an enquiry on the beatings (12th of Aug) and open discussions on a potential referendum. For more information contact root@rk.vdonsk.ru or rk@glas.apc.org or cotter@rosinter.ru. tel: 7-86392-3-52-71 (Volgodonsk) +7 (86392) 3-71-14 (duties), +7 (095) 311-11-80 Vlad, +7 (095) 298-30-87 press-service of Socio-Ecological Union.

More stories on the last page...

PESTURE

Cassini - A Star Wars Disaster

On October 6th NASA is planning to exploit its position within the world's major superpower, and place the rest of the planet at a huge risk.

Cassini, a space probe, will be launched into space with 73 pounds of deadly plutonium on board. Just one pound of plutonium, could hypothetically induce lung cancer in every person on earth.

NASA's latest scientific experiment which is being imposed on everyone else on earth has the potential to be a huge disaster, and even NASA's own research indicates that an accident could result in the most toxic chemical known to science, showering down onto earth.

NASA insists the chances of an accident occurring are minuscule, estimating the likelihood that the rocket would explode on launch and release plutonium into the air as 1 in 1500. A fire was reported in the rocket in the beginning of August.

What are the risks?

The Cassini probe will be launched on the same kind of rocket that exploded over the Pacific in 1993.

Because Cassini's propulsion source doesn't have enough power to send it straight to Saturn, a gravity assist manoeuvre or sling shot manoeuvre will be used. This means sending the unstaffed probe and its lethal load plummeting straight back to within about 400 miles of the earth's surface before using the earth's gravity to deflect it and power it further. This is an operation fraught with technical difficulties.

Since the 1960's the US has launched 24 devices carrying nuclear material into space. 3 have crashed. Not a particularly good success rate.

The radioactive thermonuclear generators(RTG's) used to house the plutonium on board, are only tested using estimated figures and as Alan Kohn, former emergency preparedness operations officer at NASA puts it, it is indestructible like the Titanic was unsinkable.

Why are NASA subjecting the planet to such dangers?

The plutonium is not necessary. It is not being used as fuel for propulsion but merely to provide electricity for the scientific instruments on board, and experts insist this could be provided by solar energy.

"There is a hidden agenda" say campaigners from Citizens for Peace in Space. "The civilian space mission is being used as a stalking horse for large scale military plans to use plutonium for space platforms and weapons. As the one superpower left on earth now, the US now has its sights on complete supremacy in space"

Between now and 2009, NASA plans to launch many more plutonium missions, including 2 nuclear reactors for mining colonies on Mars in 2007!!

Profit before planet??

NASA and the nuclear industry view outer space as a new market "untold riches" await mining colonies on other planets. In the US space command document 'Vision for 2020' they state that space forces will emerge to protect military and commercial interests and investments in the space medium. "There will be a critical need to control space to ensure US dominance"

The arms race is moving into space. And the new star wars will be nuclear. Missions like Cassini keep the nuclear laboratories in the US working at full speed and get the public and the media accustomed to the use of nuclear materials in space. It begs the question of whether NIREX will now be looking to use space as a possible nuclear waste dump, as permission is refused for various sites in this country.

They are committing the lie, the sin of omission, in not telling you the whole truth. They figure if they keep it quiet, and just pacify everyone, they can get away with everything they want to do. And they have gotten away with everything they wanted to do up until now. It is time to put a stop to their freedom to threaten the lives of the people here on the Earth I don't know how they can do this. I don't know what in a democracy they think gives them the right to do a thing like this. They have no such right. (Alan Kohn, former emergency operations officer at NASA)

Contact Manchester CND 0161 834 8301

EF! CONTACTS AUGUST '97

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c/o Bristol EF!
Bath EF!
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01249 650078

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Lancashire OL2 7QF

Blackburn EF!
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Darwen
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01254 777079.

Bristol EF!
c/o Box 51
Greenleaf Bookshop
82 Colston St
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0117 939 3093

Cambourne EF!
c/o Hartis Farm
Copper Hill
Troon, Cambourne
Cornwall

Cambridge EF!
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Cardiff EF!
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CF37 1DL
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Deadwoman's Bottom
Protest Camp
Nr Green Farm
Chantry

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Norfolk EF!
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Oldham EF!
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<http://www.hrc.wmin.ac.uk/campaigns/rts.html>

Reclaim the Valleys
c/o Swansea Environment
Center
Pier Street
Swansea, SA1 1RY
0385 711364

Save Lyminge Froest
Greensword
The Spout House
Lyminge
Kent CT21 4LQ
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Wolves Eco Action
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University Student Union
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Peace Centre
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SUPPORT GROUPS

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Earth First! Action Update
(see Manchester EF!)
actionupdate@gn.apc.org

Earth First! Action Update
(see Manchester EF!)
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Toxic Alert EF!
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Volunteers For Earth
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Philippines

Young Lions EF! South
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OTHER CONTACTS

Advisory Service for
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0171 359 8814

ALF Supporters Group
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London WC1N 3XX

Anarchist Black Cross
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London. SE24 0LR

Anarchist-Primitivist
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Rickmansworth, Herts
WD3 3AY

Anti-Fascist Action
BM Box 1734
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0161 232 0813

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Manchester M2 5NS
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campaign@mfoc.u-net.com
<http://www.gn.apc.org/resurgence/car2.html>

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01273 685913

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Legal Defence &

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The Land is Ours

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01865 22016

Undercurrents

Corporate Watch

...exists to support grassroots campaigns against large companies.

Rank bulldozing Lyminge; Millenium Dome monstrosity; the dirty slimy oil industry; corporate genetic manipulation; the scheming, conniving PR industry ... Corporate Watch informs many campaigns and takes the fight to the heart of the corporate beast. Information is power!

We also produced reports on the **Connect Consortium** for A30 Action, and on **Tarmac** and **Amec** for Campaign Against Runway 2. We have helped many community groups fighting local developments and corporate abuses. Here's how Corporate Watch can work with you:

We deal in four types of information :

What's **bad** about a company - to get people motivated to challenge the company, and to help with producing leaflets etc;

How the company is

structured (eg where its offices are, who makes the decisions, how it's connected with other companies, public relations and lobbying strategies etc) - to help plan campaign strategy;

Who is/was fighting the company - to enable coordinated campaigning and to acquire new ideas for actions, as well as sharing information;

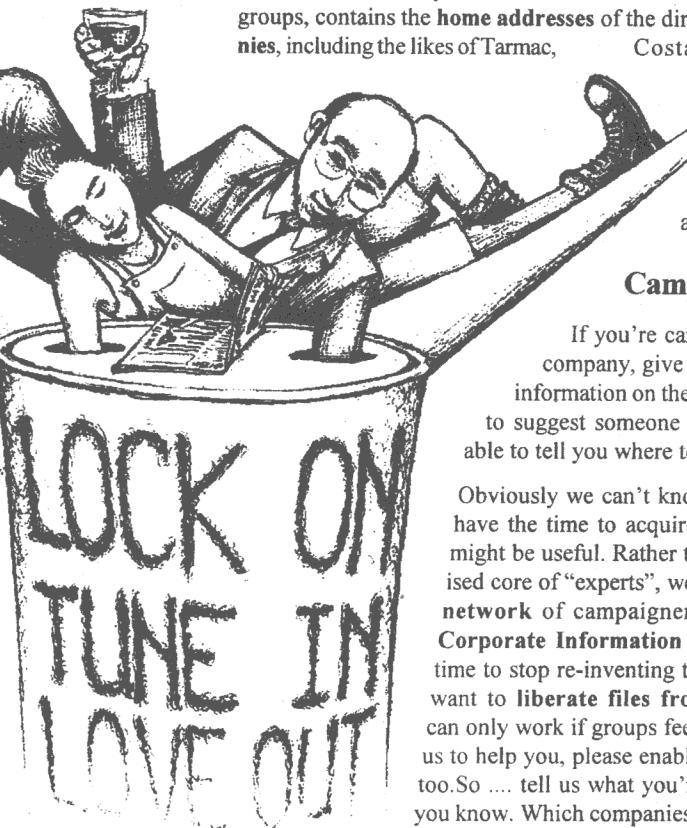
How to carry out **more detailed research** into the company.

How to research companies

Please don't ask Corporate Watch to do all your work for you - what ever happened to **DIY culture**? Corporate Watch has produced a 6-page introduction to corporate research, covering the basics of finding useful contacts, using the internet, working in libraries, media searching, interview techniques and infiltration, plus some general guidelines. Call us for a copy. We also do workshops at fests, conferences and gatherings.

The Magazine

One part of the job of getting information out to campaigners is to publish the quarterly magazine. The magazine contains news from the corporate world, features on particular companies, industries and corporate issues, and updates from the campaigns against them. The magazine is available free to EF! groups on the contact list - just ask for it! Otherwise it's £1 (unwaged) or £1.50 (waged). The magazine is available at a discount for bulk orders; if you want to sell it, you can make up to 70p per copy sold, for your group or for yourself.



Corporate Watcher's Address Book

Corporate Watch would like to see company directors more accountable for the decisions they make. The *Address Book*, which is also free to EF! groups, contains the **home addresses** of the directors of **55 nasty companies**, including the likes of Tarmac,

Costain, Monsanto, Tesco, Sainsbury, British Aerospace, McDonald's, Manchester Airport, ICI, Rank etc. For individuals it costs £2 or £3.50.

Campaign support

If you're campaigning against a large company, give us a call. If we don't have information on the company, we may be able to suggest someone who does, or we may be able to tell you where to look.

Obviously we can't know everything, nor do we have the time to acquire all the information that might be useful. Rather than developing a centralised core of "experts", we aim to facilitate a broad network of campaigners and researchers: **The Corporate Information Network**. We think it's time to stop re-inventing the wheel all the time; we want to **liberate files from filing cabinets**. This can only work if groups feed back to us. If you want us to help you, please enable us to help other groups too. So tell us what you're up to, and tell us what you know. Which companies do you have information on? What contacts do you have? What information and other resources do **you** have access to?

Corporate Watch can provide (FREE) to any Earth First! type group:

- * The D.I.Y. Research Guide
- * The Corporate Watch Magazine
- * Corporate Watcher's Address Book
- * And many other sources of information

Plug into the Corporate Information Network!

Corporate Watch

Box E, 111 Magdalen Road

Oxford, OX4 1RQ

<http://www.oneworld.org/cw/>

mail@corporatewatch.i-way.co.uk

Tel/Fax (call first): 01865 791391

Anyone want a job?

Taking on the entire corporate world is obviously a pretty big job, and Corporate Watch is VERY short of people. We need help in most areas, including **IT support, fundraising, information sourcing and management (both on paper and on computer), networking and admin**.

If anyone fancies a change of scene, please come to Oxford - we'll help you find accommodation, and introduce you to the joys of corporate watching. Alternatively, you could come down for a week or two, and we'll show you how to do things, and you can take stuff home with you.

TEDDY BEAR CAMP

The camp was set up in May 96, against the proposed 'brown route' which will go over a toxic landfill site, through 2 SSSI's, a 200 year old Beech plantation called Teddy Bear Wood and an archeologically rich Ridgeway amongst other things.

The land was compulsorily purchased at the beginning of July and contracts are now being put up for tender. There are plans for a new camp. Contact Eric c/o 20d Franklin Road, Weymouth, Dorset. Camp tel: (0468) 221 454

WAKEFIELD TOXIC WASTE TIP

Planning application is underway for Europe's biggest toxic waste dump on the only remaining greenfield site in Newland. The company is Metroland Developments Ltd. The proposed site would place the tip on 3 geographical faults and above a disused mine workings that leads to a fragile watertable. At present there is a large residents campaign which is calling for more support in the form of Non Violent Direct Action training... Contact Paul Dainton: 01924 893564

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

At the EF! national gathering, the idea of an International Newsletter with news from the 'frontlines' around the world was suggested. At the moment we rely on obscure contacts and news distorted by the media. News on people struggling and campaigns around the planet is important to globalise our efforts which are essentially against the same exploitative system. To overcome the usual eurocentricity, it was thought such a newsletter should be translated and made accessible for as many people as possible. To get this started many contacts and a few committed people would be needed! Contact EF!AU. to be put in touch with others of like mind

BLUEBELL WOODS

Manchester's resistance to mindless development has gone urban. Locals, the Green Party and EF!ers have joined forces to start a tree camp on 2.5 acres of maturing woodland in Longsight. The site has planning permission for 485 intrusive student flats while 7 acres of derelict school ground lie unused next door. Many locals objected to development which is totally out of character for the area and will destroy one of the

last patches of trees in the vicinity. Contact Manchester EF! on 0161 224 4846

Stop press!! Builders, a chainsaw crew, a bulldozer and police turned up on the 18th, stood around looking bemused and were sent home.

THE LAND IS OURS - RIGHT TO ROAM

A peaceful mass trespass will go ahead in Oxfordshire on the 20th and 21st September to reclaim our right to roam on all uncultivated land. Activities will include an overnight camp, nature trail and discussions on the property of a particularly offensive landowner.

Meet 10am on the 20th in the concourse of Oxford railway station. Friday night accommodation available in Oxford, go to the TLIO office 7-8pm Friday evening or call the mobile 0402 176410. Location of the camp will be on the office answerphone (01865 722016) from about 11.30am Saturday morning.

NON VIOLENT DIRECT TRAINING

Increasing numbers of community groups and local residents are ringing up local EF! activists asking for help with campaigns. Rather than parachuting in a small, already overstretched 'rentamob', we need to be able to pass on our skills and experiences to other groups. There are skills involved in training people in direct action, so a proposal was made at the EF! national gathering that we set up a network of people wanting to run direct action training workshops, and share methods and ideas with each other. If you are interested in being a direct action trainer or are already experienced contact Non Violent Direct Training c/o Manchester EF! or ring Tanya on (0161) 248 5043

PARENTS ACTION NETWORK

PAN is a network for parents that emerged at the EF! gathering. It aims to facilitate involvement in direct action, keep people in touch, explore legal stuff, spot 'child friendly' campaigns, share experiences and give support. If you want to get involved contact Emma at Brambles Housing Co-op, 82 Andover St, Sheffield, S3 9EH, tel: 0114 279 7164

This issue is dedicated to the memory of Roman Hawkmoon who passed away recently of cancer.

FEATURE

The BIG BAD DOME

A case for non-violent direct action against the millenium exhibition.

Given £750 million, half of it public money to celebrate the future - what could you do? New Labour in partnership with the ousted Tory party and a handful of multinational companies have the answer: a large plastic dome at Greenwich, London - packed full of shops, advertising, corporate glitter, shops and all that is great about the future. Described by Labour's own advisers as "a crock of shit" - it has also been called, "a poisoned chalice" and "a sitting duck." Here a few more reasons why this dome must die....

The Place: Greenwich, London (ie money going to the capital again and sod the rest of the country). The town is already plagued by traffic which will be increased by the 12 million people expected to visit every year. The site is toxic - an old gas works bought from British Gas but will not be cleaned up enough for housing on the site in future. The contaminated material removed from the site will be dumped in landfills in Basildon, Tilbury and Peterborough, (so the rest of the country gets something too - cyanide, arsenic, poisonous tar.) The development involves new road building and helps open up the East End's corridor - a development plan to extend the city onto sensitive Essex marshland.

The Materials: the dome will be built of PVC, steel and aluminium. PVC, a source of dioxin, one of the deadliest and longest lasting toxic chemicals known. They will still be around when the next millenium comes around and are responsible for hormone disruption and cancer causing effects. It is currently intended to incinerate the dome after a few years which will release more dioxins.

The Personalities: designed by Lord Richard Rodgers - also responsible for Heathrow terminal 5, backed by Robert Ayling - chief executive of British Airways and chair of the 'New Millennium Experience Company', overseen by Peter Mandelson - New Labour spin doctor, Michael Heseltine - ex Tory scumbag, Jenny Page and Eric Sorenson - the government's best paid fatcats.

The Paymasters: £400 million lottery money - raised from a desperate public. The rest of the money is being solicited from: British Airways, British Airport Authorities, the City of London, NatWest, Barclays, Lloyds, Midlands, BP, GEC, M&S, BT, British Gas to name a few.

What's in it? Nobody knows. A spokesman said, "we see it as an opportunity to promote all that's good about UK plc." (The question is, what's good?)

Work is happening on-site now.

The doom dome has to be built on very tight deadlines, imagine if they didn't get it finished on time!

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